

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

The conglomerates, such as AOL Time Warner, argue that the cable cap violates their right of free speech under the First Amendment. The ludicrousness of only giant corporations having a forum to "speak" by virtue of their owning most, if not all, of the media in the United States, makes it clear that the the concept of free speech implies at least a semblance of equality among different and diverse viewpoints being able to be heard. One can "speak" all one wants in a soundproof, black box, but this clearly makes the right of free speech ridiculous, as it imposes an effective silence those who do not have a forum to communicate with others. In order not to create that black box, the regulations being challenged must be defended against these anti-democratic and un-american attempts to vest all speech power in the hands of a few.